

REMARKS

In response to the Notice of Allowance mailed December 26, 2007, Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments under 37 CFR § 1.312. This amendment is being filed prior to payment of the issue fee. The amendment only cancels claims 16 and 18-30 and does not change the scope of allowed claims 1 and 3-15. Such amendment is proper after Allowance as recited in MPEP § 714.16, a portion of which is reproduced below.

After the Notice of Allowance has been mailed, the application is technically no longer under the jurisdiction of the primary examiner. He or she can, however, make examiner's amendments (see MPEP § 1302.04) and has authority to enter amendments submitted after Notice of Allowance of an application which embody merely the correction of formal matters in the specification or drawing, or formal matters in a claim without changing the scope thereof, **or the cancellation of claims from the application**, without forwarding to the supervisory patent examiner for approval (emphasis added).

If there are any charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account 09-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 2, 2008